



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE AND CBP DONATE THOUSANDS OF SEIZED CLOTHING ITEMS FOR HURRICANE KATRINA EVACUEES

The donated merchandise is worth an estimated \$2 million

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — “The seized clothing items donated is the first step towards helping these victims get back on their feet,” said Alonzo Pena, special agent-in-charge for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in San Antonio.

Nine fully loaded U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) tractor-trailers today delivered several hundred thousand pieces of seized clothing to an American Red Cross facility in San Antonio. The clothing was donated as part of ICE’s and CBP’s effort to assist victims of Hurricane Katrina who have been evacuated to San Antonio.

The convoy of trucks drove in from the port of El Paso, Texas, where CBP officers loaded the trucks with cartons of seized clothing over the past few days.

The donation represents the enforcement efforts of both ICE and CBP agencies within the Department of Homeland Security. The many shipments of clothing were seized at various Texas ports of entry for violations of U.S. trademark laws. Both ICE and CBP agents and officers are responsible for enforcing such laws. The donation is being made pursuant to U.S. law: 19 USC 1318(b) (2).

ICE Special Agent-in-Charge Al Pena and CBP Acting Port Director Celia Ridel presented the huge donation to an official with the American Red Cross. Included in the shipments were: blouses, slacks, skirts, jeans, shorts and other apparel.

Several ICE and CBP agents and officers assisted in unloading the trucks at the donation site.

In a similar effort Tuesday, trucks from Laredo, El Paso and Houston also delivered new clothing to the Reliant Astrodome complex in Houston to be distributed by the American Red Cross and St. Luke’s Methodist Ministries to Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.